(i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/ institutions, (ii) assistance for (a) technology upgradation, (b) marketing, (c) integrated infrastructural development, (d) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

— Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2nd October, 2006.

— Besides, Government implements the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) specifically designed for creating self-employment opportunities.

Statement by Minister Correcting Answer to Question

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, in reply to Starred Question No. 161 dated 9th March, 2007, regarding relief to farmers upon failure or destruction of crops, due to typographical error, the figure in reply to part (a) & (b) has appeared as Rs. 2,000. The following is to be subsituted to read as lines 12-15 of part (a) & (b) of the statement referred to in reply" .....Under the existing norms, assistance towards agriculture inputs subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers where crop loss on account of natural calamities is 50 per cent and above at the rate of Rs. 1000 per hectare for rainfed areas, Rs. 2,500 per hectare for irrigated areas and Rs. 4000 per hectare for perennial crops."

Inconvenience caused due to the error is regretted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Outcome Budget (2007-08) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION